

It is the position of the Office that Restriction **Groups I-II** lack unity of invention and do not relate to a single inventive concept because there is no common special technical feature between the two Restriction Groups which defines a contribution over the prior art. The Office states that the compound of formula I cannot be considered a special technical feature because it has been disclosed in US Patent No. 5,472,979.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the instantly claimed compositions are comprised of a **combination** comprising a compound of formula (I) **and** aspirin and that the Office may not arbitrarily select a single component of the claimed combination as the "special technical feature" to destroy unity. Moreover, the Applicants respectfully submit that, since the instantly claimed **combination** of a compound of formula (I) **and** aspirin has not been identified in the art by the Office, the instantly claimed combination is the special technical feature which defines a contribution over the prior art and unity of invention exists. Thus, the Applicants **traverse** the Office conclusion that the application pertains to a plurality of patentably distinct inventions. Absent contradictory evidence that those skilled in the art would find the instant invention to consist of multiple inventions, it is submitted that the Office Requirement is not substantiated.

Nonetheless, in an effort to advance the prosecution of the instant application, and in the absence of the Office acknowledgment of the above-mentioned arbitrary selection, the Applicants elect **with traverse** to prosecute the invention of **Group I**, (Claims 9-15), drawn to compositions, of the Restriction Requirement.

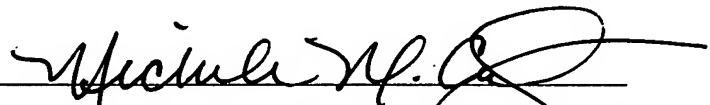
Moreover, in accordance with PCT Rule 13.2, the Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner include at least one method of treatment claim from **Group II** for simultaneous prosecution with the substance claims of **Group I**. The Applicants hereby designate the claim to treatment of *thrombo-embolic disorders associated with atherosclerosis* for such examination.

Absent a favorable decision upon reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner may withdraw the non-elected subject matter, without prejudice to its rejoinder during later examination and/or prosecution in a Divisional Application.

Accordingly, entry of the present Election into the record of this application and favorable action on the merits thereof, are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.